



CALEXICO FIRE NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2018

WISHING WON'T KEEP YOU SAFE, SAFETY WILL

Winter Fire Safety Tips- Heaters:

While only 32 percent of home heating fires involve space heaters, they are involved in 79 percent of home heating fire deaths, according to the new report Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment (2010) released by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Heating equipment continues to be the second leading cause of home fires behind cooking and the second leading cause of home fire deaths behind smoking.

Calexico Fire is urging caution and asking the public to practice safe heating behaviors as the peak time for home heating fires continues; half of all home heating fires occurred in December, January, and February according to NFPA 2003-2007.

Half of fatal home space heater fires started because something was too close to the heater and ignited. Keep heaters and things that can burn at least three feet apart. Heating fires and the deaths they cause can usually be prevented with awareness and a few simple actions. Other leading factors contributing to home space heater fires were leaving an operating space heater unattended.

Portable electric space heaters

- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Use and purchase portable space heaters with an automatic shut off so if they're tipped over they will shut off.
- Place space heater on solid, flat surface.
- Plug power cords directly into outlets and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect for cracked or damaged, broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using



CFD

Spotlight

OSCAR

PESQUEIRA

This month we feature Fire Engineer Oscar M. Pesqueira. Oscar, affectionately named "Oz", has been involved with the Calexico Fire Department since he was 17 years old. After graduating from Calexico High School in 1993, Oscar started his career with the Calexico Fire Department as a Fire Explorer. He was an Explorer for 3 years when he got picked up as a Reserve Firefighter in 1996. During this time Oscar worked at Bombay Beach Rescue Service as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and then at Gold Cross Ambulance Service as an EMT. Oscar also attended school and obtained his Associates Degree in Fire Technology. After 4 years of volunteering his time with the Calexico Fire Department, it paid off and he was hired as a full-time Firefighter in January of 2000. Oscar has trained and learned the ins and outs of the firefighter job. Having had more experience than most at the time of getting hired, Oscar was expected to know and learn more rapidly because of it and quickly arose to the Acting

Engineer role very early in his full-time Firefighter career. Oscar gained countless valuable hours behind the wheel of the Fire Engine and the Aerial Truck and behind the pump panel. This is the reason Oscar is a very seasoned Fire Engineer and it shows through his abilities to get the job done quickly and efficiently but also his critical decision making and ability to adapt to the ever-changing situations on the fire ground. Oscar was promoted to Fire Engineer in 2011. Oscar is also certified with his Arson Investigator 1 and is part of the Hazmat Emergency Assistance Team (H.E.A.T.). Oscar responds to emergency Hazardous Material incidents in the county.

Oscar now lives in El Centro with his Wife, 2 young boys, and his daughter. Oscar also has a son that lives in Casa Grande AZ. Oscar's Wife, Dalia, is a Licensed marriage, family and child therapist and is a program supervisor with the County of Imperial. Dalia has recently been to the Firehouse for counseling and information education to the members of the Calexico Fire Department regarding work-



related stress, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Suicide and its prevention.

Oscar enjoys to spend quality time with his family at home and also enjoys spending time with his parents, siblings and extended family. Oscar is an avid motorcycle rider and also enjoys riding with friends and taking trips on his Harley-Davidson. When asked why he joined the Fire Department, Oscar has said it makes him feel great to be a part of the Fire Service and the "Brotherhood" it brings. Through the ups and downs, he is honored to be a part of the Fire Department family. Oscar has been described as a patient level-headed and passionate member of the Fire Department that is always willing to pass on his knowledge and wisdom anytime.

The next time you see a Fire Engine driving by, it could be Fire Engineer Oscar Pesqueira.

Holidays In The City of Calexico

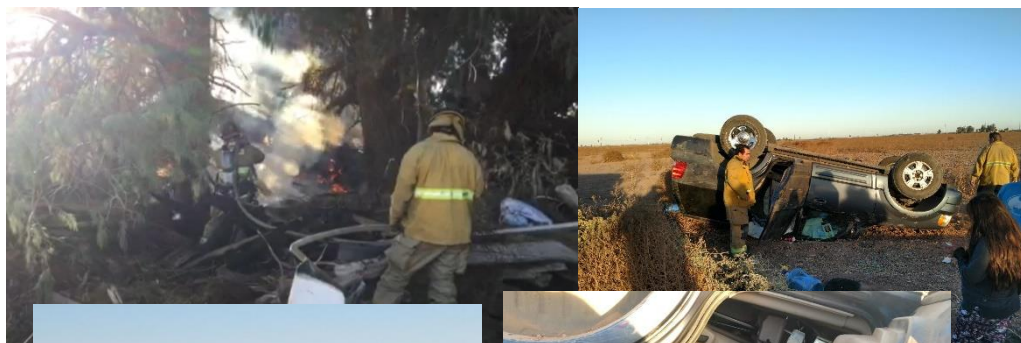
Calexico Fire Department was involved in some Holiday events. "Kids and Badges" has been in the Valley for many years and Calexico Fire Department and the Police Department have been involved year after year. It's all about the season to give back to the kids. Every year less fortunate kids get to shop with one of the members of The Calexico Fire Department and Police Department to pick toys for Christmas. The Calexico Fire Department was also invited to spend some holiday time at Las Palmas to enjoy some holiday cheer.





On Scene

Calexico Fire Department at various emergency calls including a tree fire, a motor vehicle rollover, and flying patients out involved in different emergency situations during the day and at night. Thank you to the agencies that work closely with the Calexico Fire Department to help facilitate the safety, care and transport of our citizens.



On the Lighter Side

DRAWN BY FIRE™

BY PAUL COMBS



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415 Fourth Street
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NEVER LOSE YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND PASSION FOR THE JOB!

